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### **Regents Review Support Fund Programs, New Member Sworn In**

Members of the Louisiana Board of Regents Sponsored Programs Committee today reviewed the history and policies guiding the awarding of funds through the Regents Support Fund, an issue they will revisit next month.

The full review of the program served a dual purpose – to update board members on all aspects of the Support Fund and to ensure Board consensus on the future of the program in response to questions by system board members regarding the policies used to guide the awards.

“This board has always operated through consensus. Through use of this strategy, we avoid inappropriate reaction to questions or criticisms of our actions. We want our board to review this program collectively and respond after thoughtful consideration. The bottom line is that we want to do what is best for higher education across the board through these programs,” said Roland Toups, Regents Chairman.

The Support Fund programs award money to public and private institutions to enhance a broad range of initiatives, including federally-competitive research, endowed chairs and professorships, enhancement of academic departments and units, enhancement of undergraduate and community college education, and the recruitment of superior graduate students.

During today’s committee meeting, Regent members reviewed campus-specific distributions for each category of the Support Fund. In addition, board members were informed of the competitive nature of most programs as well as limitations placed on public and private institutions’ participation in some categories of the fund to promote statewide participation.

In question has been the Regents’ policies regarding the endowed professorship program designed to improve faculty quality. This program guarantees each public and private campus at least two professorships per year.

“It’s not supposed to be about who gets the money but instead about whether we are reaching our goal of enhanced quality at all institutions for all students,” said John Wallin, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs.

Board members pointed out that the Support Fund has been a real Louisiana success story, pouring millions of dollars into higher education and attracting millions of federal research dollars into

the state since 1986.

Toups directed staff to fill the currently vacant labor and industry spots on the Support

(More)

## **Regents Review Support Fund ADD ONE**

Fund Planning Committee as soon as possible. The board is expected to discuss any suggested program modifications at its meeting next month.

In other Board action today, W. Clinton “Bubba” Raspberry, Jr., the newest member of the Louisiana Board of Regents, was sworn in prior to the beginning of the Board’s committee meeting schedule.

Raspberry was named to the Board of Regents by Governor Foster on June 25, 2003. He is currently managing partner in Crestview Woods, Westport Real Estate; Raspberry Commercial Properties along with partnerships in Best Western Richmond Suites; the Chateau Suite Hotel of Shreveport, and the Quality Inn and Suite in Amarillo, Texas.

“Mr. Raspberry begins his term at a critical time for Louisiana postsecondary education,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie. “I look forward to working with Regent Raspberry in the coming years as we strive to maintain the educational reform momentum Louisiana has developed in recent years.”

**Important note:** At its meeting tomorrow, **Thursday, August 28, at 9:00 a.m.**, the full Board will participate in a signing ceremony marking the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the University of Louisiana at Monroe and Louisiana Delta Community College.

In addition, the Board is expected to approve the distribution of \$25.25 million of state appropriations for the Technical College and Academic Center Pool Fund, the Equipment Pool Fund, and the Performance and Quality Pool Fund.